

(b) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education and the Director of the Office of Financial Education of the Department of the Treasury shall coordinate with the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy to develop a strategic plan to improve and expand financial and economic literacy education.

(2) CONTENTS.—The plan developed under this subsection shall—

(A) incorporate findings from the report and evaluations of existing Federal financial and economic literacy education programs under subsection (a); and

(B) include proposals to improve, expand, and support financial and economic literacy education based on the findings of the report and evaluations.

(3) PRESENTATION TO CONGRESS.—The plan developed under this subsection shall be presented to Congress not later than 6 months after the date on which the report under subsection (a) is submitted to Congress.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Notwithstanding section 3, this section shall become effective on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 511. FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION RULE-MAKING ON MORTGAGE LENDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 626 of division D of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–8) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “Within” and inserting “(1) Within”;

(B) in paragraph (1), as designated by subparagraph (A), by inserting after the first sentence the following: “Such rulemaking shall relate to unfair or deceptive acts or practices regarding mortgage loans, which may include unfair or deceptive acts or practices involving loan modification and foreclosure rescue services.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) Paragraph (1) shall not be construed to authorize the Federal Trade Commission to promulgate a rule with respect to an entity that is not subject to enforcement of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) by the Commission.

“(3) Before issuing a final rule pursuant to the proceeding initiated under paragraph (1), the Federal Trade Commission shall consult with the Federal Reserve Board concerning any portion of the proposed rule applicable to acts or practices to which the provisions of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) may apply.

“(4) The Federal Trade Commission shall enforce the rules issued under paragraph (1) in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made part of this section.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking so much as precedes paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (6), in any case in which the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that an interest of the residents of that State has been or is threatened or adversely affected by the engagement of any person subject to a rule prescribed under subsection (a) in a practice that violates such rule, the State, as parens patriae, may bring a civil action on behalf of the residents of the State in an appropriate district court of the United States or other court of competent jurisdiction—

“(A) to enjoin that practice;

“(B) to enforce compliance with the rule;

“(C) to obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation on behalf of residents of the State; or

“(D) to obtain penalties and relief provided by the Federal Trade Commission Act and such other relief as the court considers appropriate.”; and

(B) in paragraphs (2), (3), and (6), by striking “Commission” each place it appears and inserting “primary Federal regulator”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on March 12, 2009.

SEC. 512. PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM VIOLENT CRIME.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Second Amendment to the Constitution provides that “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed”.

(2) Section 2.4(a)(1) of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, provides that “except as otherwise provided in this section and parts 7 (special regulations) and 13 (Alaska regulations), the following are prohibited: (i) Possessing a weapon, trap or net (ii) Carrying a weapon, trap or net (iii) Using a weapon, trap or net”.

(3) Section 27.42 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, provides that, except in special circumstances, citizens of the United States may not “possess, use, or transport firearms on national wildlife refuges” of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(4) The regulations described in paragraphs (2) and (3) prevent individuals complying with Federal and State laws from exercising the second amendment rights of the individuals while at units of—

(A) the National Park System; and

(B) the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(5) The existence of different laws relating to the transportation and possession of firearms at different units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System entrapped law-abiding gun owners while at units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(6) Although the Bush administration issued new regulations relating to the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens in units of the National Park System and National Wildlife Refuge System that went into effect on January 9, 2009—

(A) on March 19, 2009, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia granted a preliminary injunction with respect to the implementation and enforcement of the new regulations; and

(B) the new regulations—

(i) are under review by the administration; and

(ii) may be altered.

(7) Congress needs to weigh in on the new regulations to ensure that unelected bureaucrats and judges cannot again override the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens on 83,600,000 acres of National Park System land and 90,790,000 acres of land under the jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(8) The Federal laws should make it clear that the second amendment rights of an individual at a unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System should not be infringed.

(b) PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BEAR ARMS IN UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM AND THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM.—The Secretary of the Interior shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm including an assembled or functional firearm in any unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System if—

(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and

(2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the law of the State in which the unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System is located.

SEC. 513. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON FLUENCY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND FINANCIAL LITERACY.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study examining—

(1) the relationship between fluency in the English language and financial literacy; and

(2) the extent, if any, to which individuals whose native language is a language other than English are impeded in their conduct of their financial affairs.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives that contains a detailed summary of the findings and conclusions of the study required under subsection (a).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I move to lay that motion upon the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 896

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives a message from the House with respect to S. 896 the Senate concur in the amendment of the House, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that this order is only valid if the House amendment is identical to the text which is at the desk; that if the text is not identical, then this order is null and void.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DODD. As if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the order with respect to the Gensler nomination be modified to provide that the debate with respect to the nomination occur after the vote which is scheduled for 2:15 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I see my colleague from Washington is here. My intention is to come back at some point later this afternoon and talk about the credit card bill. We have talked about it a lot over the last number of weeks, but I know there are other matters other people want to bring up at this juncture. So I will reserve some time this afternoon to thank my colleagues from the Banking Committee, and also my colleagues, such as Senator LEVIN, who has been a champion of this issue for as long as I have, and others who have worked tirelessly to make this happen. So I will reserve.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE SPECIAL RESERVE

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 152, submitted earlier

today; that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 152) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 152

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SPECIAL RESERVE FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 20(a) of S. Res. 73 (111th Congress) is amended by striking “\$4,375,000” and inserting “\$4,875,000”.

(b) AGGREGATES.—The additional funds provided by the amendment made by subsection (a) shall not be considered to be subject to the 89 percent limitation on Special Reserves found on page 2 of Committee Report 111-14, accompanying S. Res. 73.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15.

Thereupon, at 1:20 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF GARY GENSLER TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission?

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH).

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 195 Ex.]

YEAS—88

Akaka	Enzi	McCaskill
Alexander	Feingold	McConnell
Barrasso	Feinstein	Menendez
Baucus	Gillibrand	Mikulski
Bayh	Graham	Murkowski
Begich	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Bennet	Gregg	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Hagan	Pryor
Bingaman	Harkin	Reed
Bond	Hatch	Reid
Boxer	Hutchison	Risch
Brown	Inhofe	Roberts
Brownback	Inouye	Schumer
Bunning	Isakson	Sessions
Burr	Johanns	Shelby
Burr	Johnson	Snowe
Cardin	Kaufman	Specter
Carper	Kerry	Stabenow
Casey	Klobuchar	Tester
Chambliss	Kohl	Thune
Coburn	Kyl	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Landrieu	Udall (NM)
Collins	Lautenberg	Vitter
Conrad	Leahy	Warner
Corker	Levin	Webb
Cornyn	Lieberman	Whitehouse
Crapo	Lincoln	Wicker
DeMint	Lugar	Wyden
Dodd	Martinez	
Durbin	McCain	

NAYS—6

Cantwell	Merkley	Sanders
Dorgan	Murray	Shaheen

NOT VOTING—5

Byrd	Kennedy	Voinovich
Ensign	Rockefeller	

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF GARY GENSLER TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The nomination is confirmed, and the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

Under the previous order, there will now be 60 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled between the Senator from Iowa, Mr. HARKIN, and the Senator from Georgia, Mr. CHAMBLISS, or their designees.

The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, again, to recap what was said, we have voted twice, once to approve Mr. Gensler as a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and another vote to approve him as the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. I voted yes on both measures. Let me share my reasoning on the nomination of Mr. Gensler.

Honestly, I have had some reservations about this nominee, though certainly not about him as a person. Based upon my meetings with him and our committee hearing, I believe Mr. Gensler is a good and decent man with a strong personal story, and he has certainly shown his intellectual capability and his knowledge of the subject.

I simply had concerns with elements of his background and philosophy, con-

cerning the regulation of over-the-counter derivatives transactions and other financial transactions, and his views on regulations in general.

Mr. President, I chaired a nomination hearing that lasted some time. It was a hearing of substance. Mr. Gensler answered some very tough questions straightforwardly.

It is not possible to know how Mr. Gensler will decide any given question, but he has expressed support for much stronger, more effective reform in the oversight and regulation of derivatives. Of all the things we are doing around here, in terms of banking and bailouts and pronouncements coming from the Secretary of the Treasury, perhaps the construction of the whole thing is centered around how are we finally going to regulate derivatives and swaps. These are over the counter, hidden from view and, quite frankly, they have led to the debacle we have now.

Let me read some excerpts from Mr. Gensler's testimony before the Senate Agriculture Committee, which gives me, again, some positive feelings toward his future chairmanship of the CFTC.

Here is what he said:

I firmly believe that strong, intelligent regulation with aggressive enforcement benefits our economy and the public.

We must urgently move to enact a broad regulatory regime that covers the entire over-the-counter derivatives markets.

Right on target, Mr. Gensler. He also said:

The CFTC should be provided with authority to set position limits on all over-the-counter derivatives to prevent manipulation and excessive speculation.

A transparent and consistent playing field for all physical commodity futures should be the foundation of our regulations.

I agree with that.

Lastly, Mr. Gensler said this:

I believe that the CFTC must work with Congress, with other regulators, and with our global financial partners to ensure that the failures of our regulatory and financial systems, failures which have already taken a toll on every American, never happen again.

Those are all excerpts from the extensive testimony and question-and-answer period of Mr. Gensler before our committee. So now I am prepared to entrust momentous decisions to Mr. Gensler, and I am, of course, supporting the President's choice. Given the fragile state of the economy and financial markets, having a confirmed chairman at the CFTC is of critical importance.

As I said at Mr. Gensler's nomination hearing, these are challenging times, particularly for regulators like the CFTC. Since the Commodity Futures Trading Commission was established 35 years ago, it has never faced more daunting market challenges than those that exist now. The unprecedented price volatility of our markets for physical commodities, such as energy and grains, has hurt our economy. The lack of sufficient regulatory authority and oversight over the derivatives and financial markets has proven disastrous to the entire global economy.